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NEWS

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SURVEY OF RECATALOGING PROGRAM

Dr. Maurice F. Tauber, Professor in the School of Library Service, Columbia University, spent the period 6 to 15 June at the Army Medical Library, under appointment as a Consultant, investigating the scope of the recataloging program. The enactment of a complete recataloging program, recommended by the Survey Committee, has been one of the continuing problems facing the Library. It is complicated by inadequate knowledge of the size of the collection, by suggested revisions in the classification, and by other factors. Members of the Catalog Division and of the administration have long felt the necessity for long-range planning in defining the scope and priorities of the recataloging program.

Dr. Tauber, who has conducted many library surveys, received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago. He is President of the A.L.A. Division of Cataloging and Classification, has had experience as a cataloging administrator, and is well known as a writer, teacher, and surveyor in this field.

MAJOR ROGERS AT A. M. L.

Major Frank B. Rogers, M. C., was on temporary duty at the Library during the month of June and has now returned to Columbia University for the summer session of the School of Library Service. During his stay in Washington, Major Rogers attended a Conference on Dental Library, Indexing, and Nomenclature Problems, sponsored by the American Dental Association, in Chicago on 27 June.

Major Rogers expects to report for duty at the Army Medical Library late in September.

HONORARY CONSULTANT ACTIVITIES

The Defense Establishment has announced that Dr. Raymond B. Allen, President of the University of Washington, will serve for three months as Director of the newly unified medical services of the Armed Forces, beginning 1 July 1949.

Mr. Francis R. St. John was inducted as Director of the Brooklyn Public Library on 24 May. The President of the Board of Trustees presided at the installation of Mr. St. John, the library's fifth director. Among the speakers at the ceremonies were President Cashmore of the Borough of Brooklyn and Mayor O'Dwyer. Mr. St. John was Acting Librarian of the Army Medical Library from 1 September 1944 to 1 July 1945.

Dr. Robert M. Stecher, Chief of the Arthritis Clinic of Cleveland City Hospital and Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Western Reserve University Medical School, became President-elect of the International League Against Rheumatism on 2 June. Dr. Stecher was elected at the International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases sponsored by the League at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. Dr. Ejnar Jarlow of Copenhagen, Denmark, took office as President. Dr. Stecher will succeed him as President of the League at the next International Congress expected to be held in Switzerland in four years.

Dr. Stecher, together with several other doctors of Cleveland City Hospital, also presented a paper to the Congress stating that relatives of patients with rheumatoid arthritis and rheumatoid spondylitis show overwhelming susceptibility to these diseases. This susceptibility the authors of the paper considered strong evidence of constitutional factors in the occurrence of the disease.

CURRENT LIST PROGRESS REPORT

Considerable progress has been made toward bringing the indexes to the *Current List of Medical Literature* up to date. During June, the February 1949, January 1949, and December 1948 indexes were completed. As of 1 July, the November index headings had been assigned and the editorial work begun. The October issues are in process of being subject headed.

The remaining back indexes, May to September 1948, have not been started but if the present work schedule is maintained they should be completed early in September.

Permission has been secured to have some of these indexes prepared by persons outside the Library, on a contract basis. No contract has as yet been made.

The weekly issues in the *Current List* are now being published on schedule.

DR. SCOTT APPOINTMENT

Dr. Eugene W. Scott, a member of the Surgeon General's Committee on Medical Indexing, was appointed Executive Secretary of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific Research and Development, on 1 June. The Committee, composed of representatives of twelve Federal agencies, was established in December 1947 to coordinate Federal scientific activities to increase efficiency of the over-all Federal research and development program. The appointment of a full-time secretariat to the Committee was recommended by the Hoover Commission.

WRITINGS BY A. M. L. STAFF

"D. C. C. visits A. L. A. Headquarters" in the June 1949 issue of the *A. L. A. Bulletin* is the report of the survey made in Chicago 27 March to 7 April [*Army Medical Library News,* April 1949], by Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Chief of the Catalog Division, and Miss Laura C. Colvin, Assistant Professor of Library Science at Simmons College. A detailed report will appear in the summer issue of the *Journal of Cataloging and Classification.*

Mr. Karl A. Baer is the author of "The First Description of Yellow Fever" appearing in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* January-February 1949 issue. This article was occasioned by the Library's acquisition in 1948 of a copy of Ferreyra da Rosa's *Tratado Unico.* So far as is known, no other copy of this book exists in the United States.

MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN AWARD TO MR. AUSTIN

Mr. Robert B. Austin, Head of the Circulation and Book Custody Section of the Library's Reference Division, received the Meritorious Civilian Award on 13 June 1949.

Major General R. W. Bliss, Surgeon General of the Army, made the presentation in his office, and the Director and Acting Librarian, Army Medical Library, together with members of the Reference Division staff, were present at the ceremony. The citation read, in part, as follows: "Mr. Austin made his intimate knowledge of the Library's collections and his comprehensive acquaintance with past policies and practices in the Library generously and freely available during a crucial period of reorganization."

EXHIBIT

Several Japanese block prints, 18th and 19th centuries, on allegorical subjects, are now on exhibit. These are recent acquisitions of the Art Section, received from Charles E. Tuttle, a Vermont bookseller now in Japan who is commissioned to buy books there for the Library in the field of the history of medicine.

These prints are good examples of the art of wood block printing, which reached its highest development in Japan in the 18th century. Prints were then valued little more than advertising posters are today, and because they were inexpensive to make in large numbers they were used as vehicles of information as well as for decorative purposes. These medical prints, therefore, may be compared with the medical broadsides and pamphlets of the western world of about the same time.

A. M. L. CLASSIFICATION

A small number of copies of the preliminary edition of the Army Medical Library Classification have been distributed. On 1 June a letter was sent to those receiving these copies, requesting suggestions and criticisms. It would be very much appreciated if those who have not yet replied would do so as soon as possible, addressing the Director, Army Medical Library.

VISITORS

Recent visitors included: Colonel T. Upatham Bhananda, Deputy Surgeon General, Royal Siamese Army; Professor Dr. Hanns W. Eppelsheimer, Librarian, University of Frankfurt, Germany; Mr. R. C. Gupta, Embassy of India, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Anibal Ruiz Moreno, Professor de Historia de la Medicine, Facultad de Medicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Dr. Herbert Coblans, of Durban, South Africa, who is leaving for Paris to become Librarian of UNESCO.

A visitor to the History of Medicine Division last month was Miss Bep Regeur, medical-social worker at Sunby Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark. She is in this country on a U. N. fellowship and has spent her time thus far visiting hospitals and attending meetings of the National Conference of Social Work in Cleveland 12-18 June. She plans to attend the summer session of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

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